



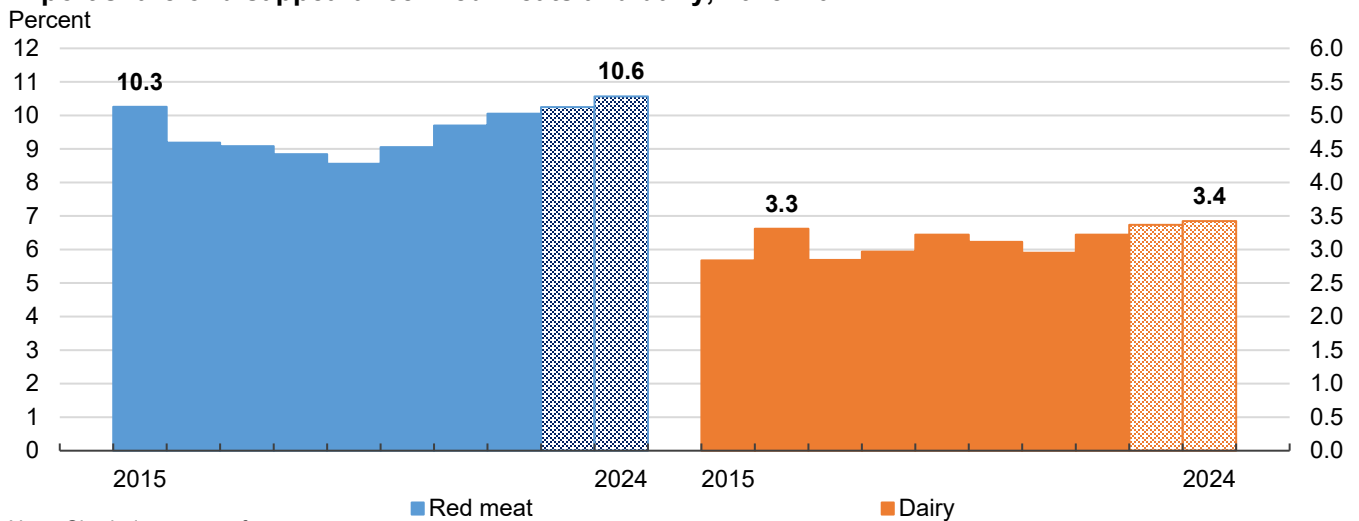
Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook: December 2023

Import Shares of Domestic Use for Red Meats and Dairy

The figure below represents the percentage of annual domestic use, or disappearance, that was imported for red meats and dairy in 2015 through 2022 and is forecast for 2023 and 2024. These shares are calculated by dividing annual imports by annual domestic disappearance, which USDA calculates as a residual measure of supply (the sum of production, beginning stocks, and imports minus the sum of exports and ending stocks) that is used on the domestic market. Dairy disappearance is represented as domestic commercial use on a milk-fat milk-equivalent basis.

The red meat category is heavily influenced by the effects of beef imports, which in 2018–22 accounted for nearly 70 percent of total red meat imports, followed by pork (23 percent) and lamb (7 percent). The share of beef imports to domestic use has increased since 2019 on strong domestic demand and lower production and is projected to rise to a record level in 2024. In 2024, the share of imports to domestic use for beef will reach a record 13.7 percent, pork will be relatively flat at 5.5 percent, and the share of lamb imports is expected to rebound in 2024 to 71.9, its highest portion of domestic use since 2022. The dairy shares of imports on a milk-fat milk-equivalent basis are expected to be about 3.4 percent in 2023 and 2024, which is higher than the 5-year average due to higher expected imports of products with relatively high milk-fat content.

Import share of disappearance: Red meats and dairy, 2015–2024



Note: Shaded areas are forecasts.
Dairy import shares are on a milk-fat milk-equivalent basis.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, with USDA World Agricultural Outlook Board data.

Summary

Beef/Cattle: Based on slaughter data through early December, higher cow slaughter and heavier-than-assumed carcass weights are expected to offset lower fed cattle slaughter in the fourth quarter of 2023, leaving the beef production forecast for 2023 unchanged. Expected heavier carcasses are carried over into early 2024, along with higher cow slaughter. Greater expected placements in late 2023 are also expected to add to a higher rate of fed cattle marketings in the second and third quarters of 2024. This raised the outlook for beef production in 2024 to 25.990 billion pounds. Projections for cattle prices are lowered on higher forecast production and weaker expected demand. For fourth-quarter 2023, expectations for beef imports are raised but exports are lowered. In 2024, the import forecast is raised, but exports are left unchanged from last month.

Sheep/Lamb: Lamb and mutton import forecasts are lower in the December report compared to the previous month. Lamb and mutton import forecasts were lowered 5 million pounds in December; those for 2024 were lowered by 35 million pounds.

Dairy: The milk production forecasts for 2023 and 2024 are reduced from the last month on slower expected growth in milk yield per cow and a lower expected number of cows in 2024. The all-milk price forecast for 2023 is reduced from \$20.70 per hundredweight (cwt) to \$20.60 per cwt due to recent movements in the wholesale prices of cheese, butter, and nonfat dry milk. The 2024 wholesale price forecast for cheese is revised downward, while the wholesale price forecasts for the other dairy products are revised upward. The lower expected cheese price more than offsets the higher expected prices of the other products, leading to the 2024 all-milk price forecast being revised to \$20.25 per cwt, down \$0.55 per cwt from the previous forecast.

Pork/Hogs: Fourth-quarter pork production is raised 25 million pounds to 7.09 billion pounds, 2.4 percent higher than in the same period a year ago. Hog prices are expected to average \$54 per hundredweight (cwt) for the quarter, 15 percent lower than in the fourth quarter of 2022. First-quarter hog prices are lowered \$1 per cwt to \$56 per cwt, as soft consumer pork demand is likely to persist, limiting hog price increases. October pork exports increased 5.7 percent year over year on the strength of shipments to Western Hemisphere Nations, led by Mexico. U.S. pork exports in 2024 are forecast at about 6.9 billion pounds, 1.5 percent higher than the 2023 exports forecast.

Poultry/Eggs: Projected broiler production is adjusted up for the fourth quarter of 2023 based on strong production in October, but adjusted down in the first quarter of 2024 based on recent hatchery data. Both broiler exports and imports were adjusted up slightly in 2023 on recent data. Broiler prices are adjusted down 1 cent in the fourth quarter of 2023 on recent prices but are unchanged for next year. Total table egg production in 2023 is unchanged, while 2024 production is decreased slightly. Wholesale prices for eggs are adjusted down for the fourth quarter of 2023 on recent data. Expectations for both imports and exports of eggs and egg products in 2023 are increased slightly on recent data. Turkey production projections are lowered from last month on recent production and placement data. Projected turkey imports are lowered in 2023 and 2024, while exports are increased in the fourth quarter of 2023 and first quarter of 2024 on recent data and favorable prices. Projected turkey prices are adjusted down in 2023 and 2024 on recent prices and lower expected demand.

Beef/Cattle

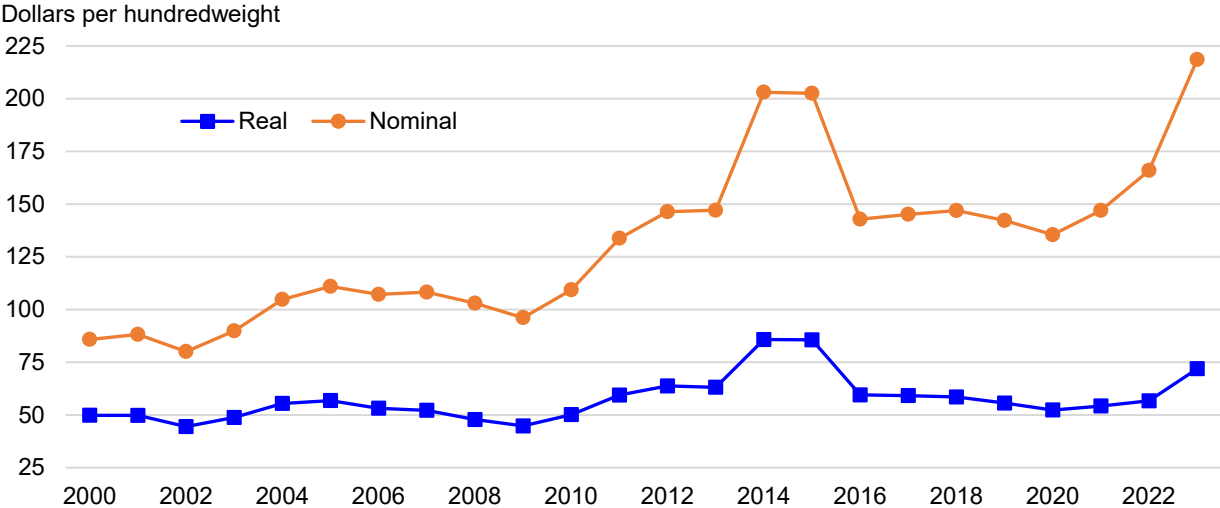
Russell Knight and Hannah Taylor

Real Feeder Cattle Prices Lag

Since last month’s LDP report, estimated steer and heifer slaughter was slower than expected in November and early December, suggesting a slower pace of marketings for the month and lowering expectations for the quarter. On the other hand, the placements of cattle were above a year ago for the month of October and November weekly sales data from the *National Feeder and Stocker Cattle Summary*, as well as weekly import data for feeder cattle, suggest that November placements could also be relatively strong. Anticipated fourth-quarter 2023 placements are generally higher than might otherwise be expected given the historically low number of feeder cattle supplies that were available for placement on October 1. This is likely supported by an increase in heifers not being kept for replacements and demand for feeder cattle, with optimism for generally higher fed cattle prices in 2024.

The proportion of heifers reported in weekly federally inspected slaughter data and in weekly sales data for feeder and stocker cattle remain quite strong, particularly given historically high nominal price levels recorded this year. Possible impediments to cow/calf producers retaining heifers in their herds may be a lack of forage and continued relatively high operating expenses. Although feeder prices have breached previous records this year, when prices are deflated to real levels, 2023 prices for feeder steers weighing 750–800 pounds at the Oklahoma City National Stockyards have not matched levels in 2014 and 2015.

2023 deflated feeder cattle prices 16 percent below records set in 2014–15



Note: Prices Adjusted on Consumer Price Index (CPI); 1982–84=100. The 2023 price is the annual forecast, and it is deflated using the average CPI from January through October 2023.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

2024 Production Higher on Both Weights and Cattle Slaughter

According to the latest *Cattle on Feed* report, published by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), November 1 feedlot inventory is estimated at 11.931 million head, almost 2 percent above 11.736 million head in the same month last year. Feedlot net placements¹ in October were nearly 4 percent higher year over year at 2.109 million head. However, marketings in October tallied 1.758 million head, which were down over 3 percent from a year ago. The year-over-year decline in marketings, despite one more weekday of slaughter available compared to last year, reflects poor packer margins in October that resulted in a slower pace of slaughter. Consequently, the slower pace of marketings is reflected in two of the three largest cattle feeding States, Texas and Kansas, holding 4 and 56 percent, respectively, more cattle on feed over 150 days on November 1 than a year ago, which has likely helped boost steer and heifer carcass weights to above year-ago levels for the week ending November 25.

Despite the slower pace of cattle slaughter through most of the fourth quarter, the beef production outlook for 2023 is unchanged from last month at 26.932 billion pounds. The unchanged forecast for fourth-quarter production reflects the slower-than-expected pace of fed cattle slaughter that is offset by a higher pace of cow slaughter than previously anticipated and heavier average cattle carcass weights.

For 2024, the beef production forecast is raised 180 million pounds from last month to 25.990 billion pounds. In the first quarter, the production forecast is raised on higher anticipated cow slaughter and heavier expected average carcass weights that is carried over from fourth-quarter 2023. In addition, higher production is also expected in the second and third quarters that reflect higher expected placements in late-2023 coupled with a strong pace of marketings during 2024.

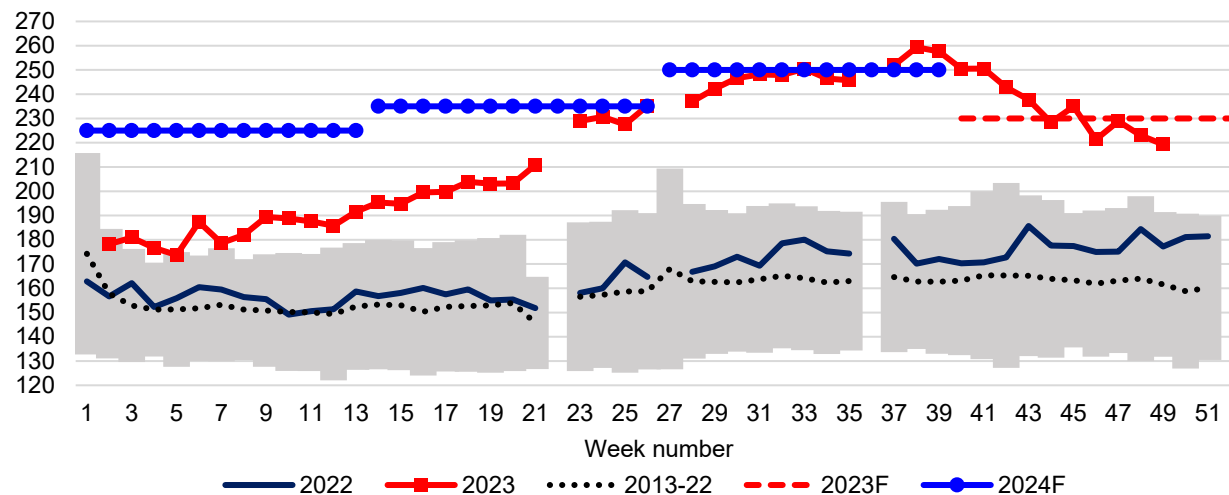
Softer Demand Weighs on Cattle Prices

In November, the weighted-average price for feeder steers weighing 750–800 pounds at the Oklahoma City National Stockyards was \$226.83 per hundredweight (cwt), a \$16.67 decline from October. In the December 4th sale, feeder steers topped \$219.30 per cwt, a decline of \$3.71 from the prior week but more than \$42 above the same week last year. The chart below shows weekly prices and quarterly price forecasts.

¹ Net placements are placements minus other disappearance.

Weekly prices for 750–800 pound feeder steers continue decline from September highs

Dollars per hundredweight



Note: Error bars represent one standard deviation.

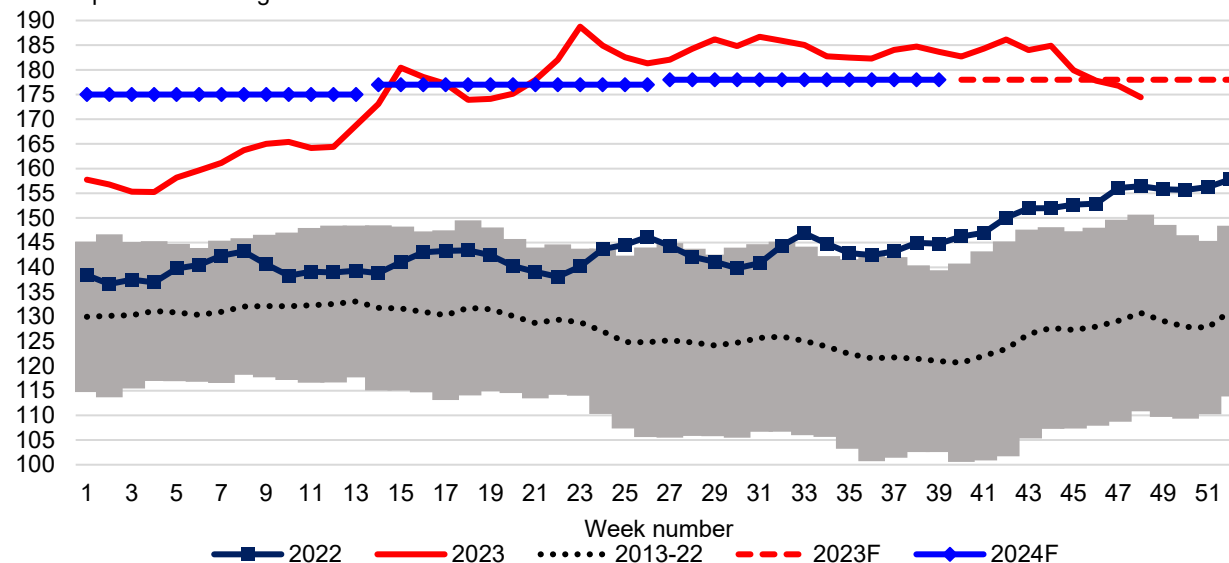
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Several factors are likely contributing to lower-reported feeder calf prices. Wholesale beef prices have been trending lower since the shorter-than-expected seasonal uptick in late October. This has encouraged packers to try to minimize the prices paid for fed cattle by managing throughput. This is likely putting a squeeze on feedlot returns for calves purchased at higher levels in the summer and coupled with declining futures prices for fed cattle may be affecting feedlots' willingness to pay higher prices for feeders. Further, less heifer retention is probably helping support supplies available for placement. Accounting for recent price weakness, the fourth-quarter price forecast for feeder steers is reduced \$10 from last month to \$230 per cwt. That price weakness was carried into 2024, and the forecast of annual prices is lowered \$10 to \$242 per cwt, 11 percent higher than 2023.

As noted, wholesale boxed beef values have declined steadily through early December, and fed cattle prices have also declined. The November average price for fed steers in the 5-area marketing region was \$178.72 per cwt, \$5.59 lower than October. As a result of current fed cattle price weakness, the fed steer price forecast for fourth-quarter 2023 is lowered \$7 from last month to \$178.00 per cwt. That price weakness was carried over to next year with expectations that more cattle will be available for marketing than previously expected, as well as for concerns over future demand strength. Consequently, 2024 prices are lowered \$7 to \$178.00 per cwt, still above 2023 levels and remaining historically high.

Weekly prices and quarterly price forecasts for 5-area fed steers

Dollars per hundredweight



Note: Error bars represent one standard deviation.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Beef Export Forecast Lowered Slightly

October beef exports totaled nearly 242 million pounds, almost 21 percent lower year over year and 11 percent below the 5-year average. Monthly exports to nearly every major market were lower year over year with the exception of Taiwan and Mexico. October exports to Taiwan were nearly 11 percent higher year over year, and exports to Mexico were about 6 percent higher. The value of total U.S. beef exports through October is just over 7.8 billion dollars, which is 17 percent lower than last year.

U.S. beef exports by volume, January–October 2022 and 2023

Country	October 2023 exports	Year-to-date exports				Share of YTD exports, percent	
		2022	2023	Year-over-year volume change	Year-over-year percent change	2022	2023
South Korea	48.8	681.0	560.4	-120.6	-18	23	22
Japan	47.2	689.0	541.9	-147.0	-21	23	21
China	37.2	551.9	427.4	-124.5	-23	18	17
Mexico	28.2	227.2	258.4	31.1	14	8	10
Canada	21.8	228.1	227.9	-0.2	0	8	9
Taiwan	15.3	173.4	163.8	-9.5	-6	6	6
ROW	43.0	451.3	376.3	-75.0	-17	15	15
Total	241.5	3001.9	2556.1	-445.8	-15		

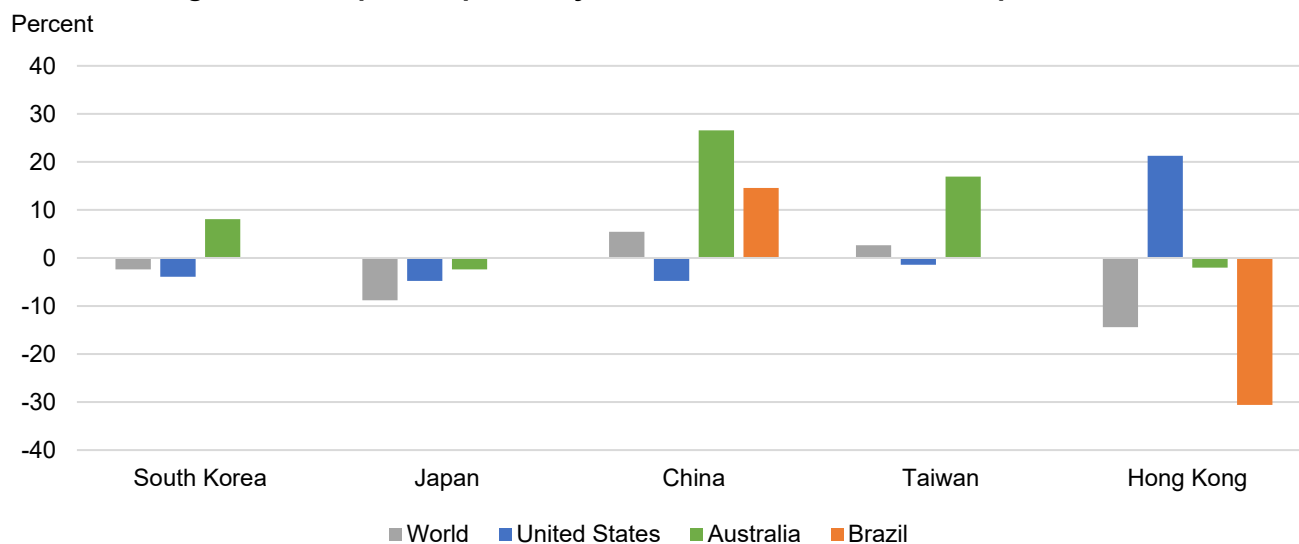
Note: Volumes are in million pounds, carcass weight equivalent. The ranking of the top six countries shown here is based on 2023 year-to-date exports; YTD = year-to-date; ROW = rest of world.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Australia’s exports through September this year were about 22 percent higher than a year ago. The chart below compares selected Asian countries’ beef imports from the United States, Australia and Brazil, as well as total imports from the world, as reported in the *Trade Data Monitor*. Most Asian markets have imported less total beef from the world through September this year, but in some markets Australia’s share of those imports has grown as its production has increased and it has stepped up to fill the gap left by lower U.S. exportable supplies. This is the case especially in both South Korea and Taiwan. Japan has imported nearly 9 percent less beef year over year, but despite a decrease in shipments the United States still remains the largest supplier of beef imports to Japan. The main supplier of beef to China and Hong Kong is Brazil; Hong Kong has imported significantly less beef from Brazil compared to a year ago, while China’s imports of beef from Brazil are up slightly.

The export forecast for fourth-quarter 2023 is lowered slightly by 5 million pounds to 715 million. The annual forecast is 3.030 billion, a year-over-year decrease of almost 15 percent. The export forecast for 2024 is unchanged from last month at 2.845 billion pounds.

Percent change in beef imports reported by select Asian markets, Jan.–Sept. 2023 vs. 2022



Note: Top five Asian markets based on 2023 U.S. exports.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from the *Trade Data Monitor* LLC.

Beef Import Forecast Raised Slightly

Monthly beef imports in October were 306 million pounds, a record for the month. Imports from Canada were 96 million pounds, the second-highest shipments for the month behind 2004. Once again, imports from Australia were significantly higher year over year, up almost 78 percent. Year-to-date imports from Australia have increased more than 50 percent from the same period last year. According to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences *Agricultural Commodities Report* from December 2023, increased beef production is expected as a result of herd destocking due to dry weather and lower feed availability, increasing exportable supplies in the July 2023–June 2024 marketing year.

U.S. beef imports by volume, January–October 2022 and 2023

Country	October 2023 imports	Year-to-date imports				Share of YTD imports, percent	
		2022	2023	Year-over-year volume change	Year-over-year percent change	2022	2023
Canada	96.0	804.4	824.8	20.5	3	28	26
Mexico	53.1	626.5	560.9	-65.6	-10	22	18
Australia	70.2	337.2	513.7	176.5	52	12	16
New Zealand	27.5	348.9	468.3	119.4	34	12	15
Brazil	19.3	436.1	394.2	-41.9	-10	15	13
ROW	40.3	348.7	368.3	19.6	6	12	12
Total	306.4	2901.7	3130.2	228.5	8		

Note: Volumes are in million pounds, carcass weight equivalent. The ranking of the top five countries shown here is based on 2023 year-to-date imports; YTD = year-to-date; ROW = rest of world.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Based on recent data, the import forecast for fourth-quarter 2023 is raised 10 million pounds to 840 million, for an annual total of 3.663 billion. The forecast for 2024 is raised 10 million pounds as well, to 3.700 billion. If realized, this would be a 1-percent increase year over year.

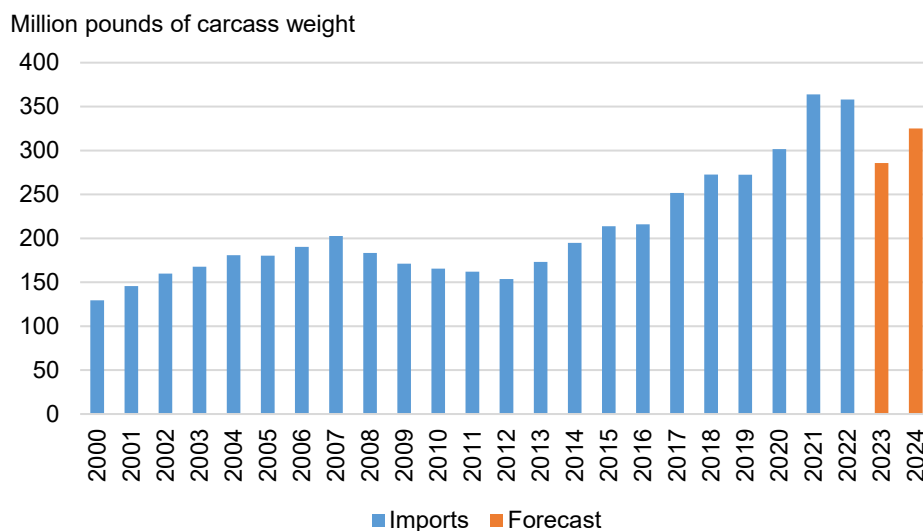
Lamb/Sheep

William Hahn

Lamb and Mutton Imports

The chart below shows the history of lamb imports since 2000, with forecasts for 2023 and 2024. Lamb and mutton import forecasts for 2023 and 2024 have been lowered from last month's report. The previous forecast for quarter 4 of 2023 was 80 million pounds. This forecast has been lowered to 75 million pounds. Since there is data on actual imports for the first three quarters of this year, the annual 2024 forecast is also lowered by 5 million pounds to 286 million pounds.

Annual lamb and mutton imports since 2000, with forecasts for 2023 and 2024



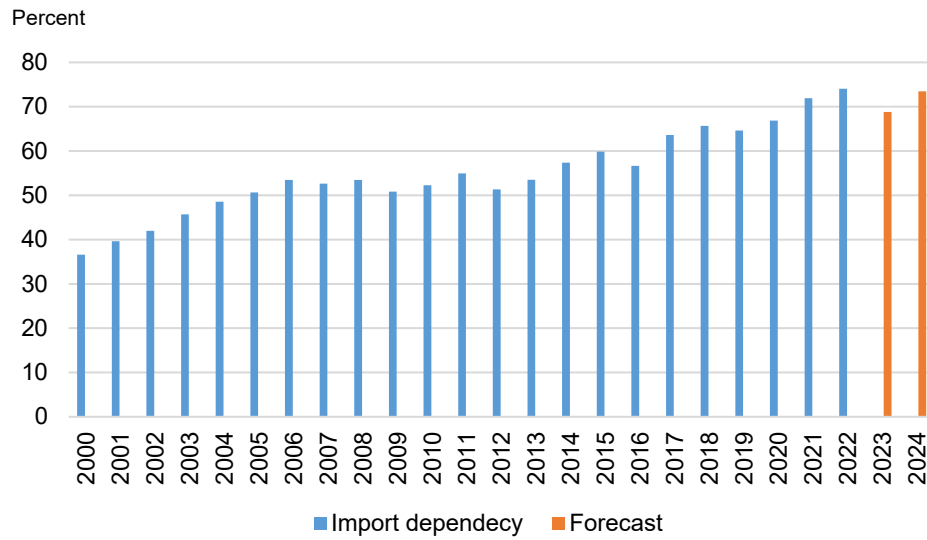
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service livestock international data and World Agricultural Outlook Board forecasts.

The current forecast for 2024 has been lowered from 360 million to 325 million pounds. The year 2021 had the historical high in lamb and mutton imports, 364 million pounds. In 2022, lamb and mutton imports were 358 million pounds. The current forecasts for 2023 and 2024 are below these historical highs.

The front page of this report shows import dependency ratios for red meat and dairy products. These ratios are imports divided by *Disappearance*, which is often used as a measure of wholesale demand. It is calculated by finding *total supply*, consisting of beginning stocks plus production plus imports. Disappearance is total supply minus exports minus ending stocks. Lamb and mutton have much higher import dependency ratios than red meats in general. See the chart below.

In 2000, the dependency ratio was 37 percent. This ratio has grown since 2000 because of generally higher imports and lower domestic production. The ratio peaked in 2022; the forecasts for 2023 and 2024 imply ratios of 68.8 and 73.5 percent.

Annual lamb and mutton import dependency ratios



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service livestock international data and World Agricultural Outlook Board forecasts.

Dairy

Adriana Valcu-Lisman and Angel Terán

Recent Wholesale Dairy Product Prices

The wholesale prices for dairy products reported in the USDA *National Dairy Products Sales Report* (NDPSR) had mixed directions of change from the week ending November 4 to the week ending December 2, 2023. The price for butter, 40-pound blocks of Cheddar cheese and 500-pound Cheddar cheese barrels (adjusted to 38-percent moisture), decreased by 63.24, 10.40, and 9.13 cents per pound, respectively. The prices for nonfat dry milk (NDM) and dry whey increased by 1.90 and 5.71 cents per pound, respectively.

Dairy products wholesale prices

Dollars per pound

	For the week ending		Change
	November 4	December 2	
Butter	3.2554	2.6230	-0.6324
Cheddar cheese			
40-pound blocks	1.7780	1.6740	-0.1040
500-pound barrels *	1.7168	1.6255	-0.0913
Nonfat dry milk	1.1756	1.1946	0.0190
Dry whey	0.3551	0.4122	0.0571

* Adjusted to 38-percent moisture.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *National Dairy Products Sales Report*, December 6, 2023.

At the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), the average spot price for butter was \$2.6725 per pound during the trading week ending December 8th. During the same week, the average spot prices for Cheddar cheese 500-pound barrels and 40-pound blocks averaged \$1.5780 and \$1.5975 per pound, respectively. CME spot prices for NDM and dry whey averaged \$1.1705 and \$0.3985 per pound, respectively.

According to USDA, *Dairy Market News* (DMN), the international prices for the selected major dairy commodities increased in November from October levels (see next table). These increases ranged from 1.4 cents per pound for Cheddar cheese (Oceania) to 26.2 cents per pound for butter (Western Europe). Milk production across in the European Union, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand decreased year-over-year in October. Furthermore, according to the latest USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Cheese–Foreign Type* report, European demand for cheese has been strong ahead of the holiday season.

The Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Price Index for the trading event of December 5 was up 1.6 percent from the GDT event of November 21. Overall, the average GDT prices for all dairy products ended on a positive note or stayed flat (as anhydrous milk fat di). However, most notably, the average GDT price for Cheddar cheese increased by 9.7 percent, closing at \$1.81 per pound for all contracts in the most recent event. During this event, mozzarella was traded for the first time, with an average price of \$1.82 per pound.

Dairy product export prices for Oceania and Europe

Dollars per pound

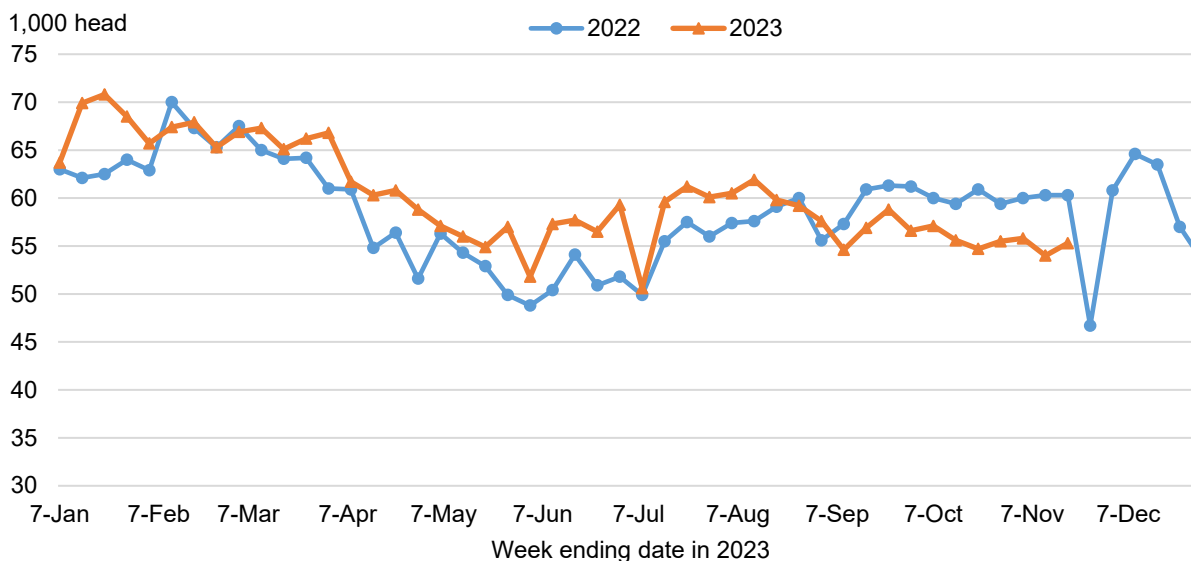
Product	Region	October 2023	November 2023	Change
Butter	Oceania	2.229	2.250	0.021
	Western Europe	2.311	2.573	0.262
Cheddar cheese	Oceania	1.771	1.785	0.014
Skim milk powder	Oceania	1.191	1.218	0.028
	Western Europe	1.227	1.297	0.070
Dry whey	Western Europe	0.391	0.424	0.032

Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) calculation using information from USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Monthly Averages, December 7, 2023.

Recent Dairy Supply and Use Data

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) *Milk Production* report, the milking cow herd was estimated at 9.37 million head in October, down 42,000 from October 2022 and 6,000 head from the previous month. The average milk production per cow was 1,997 pounds, about 1 pound less than October 2022. As a result of both a lower milking herd and yield, milk production totaled 18.710 billion pounds in October, about 0.5 percent lower than last year. Most of the milk production reductions were in the Western States, while milk output in the rest of major production States registered mainly year-over-year yield improvements.

Federally inspected milk cow slaughter (weekly data)



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

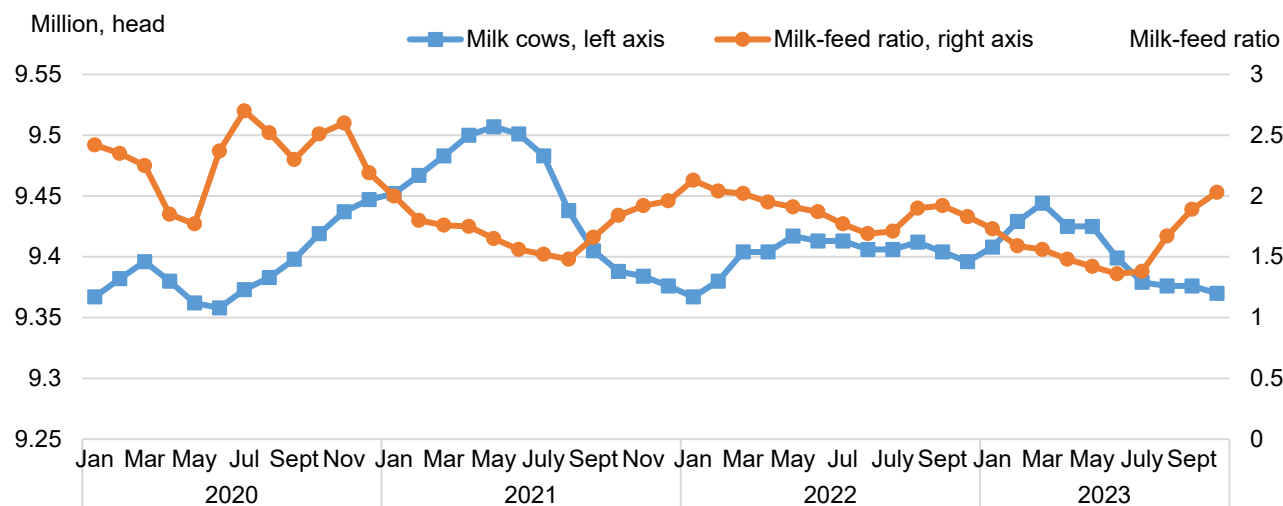
For each week since the week ending September 9, federally Inspected milk cow slaughter has been less than the corresponding week of the previous year, by about 7 percent on average. The national milking herd continues to shrink, likely in response to the relatively poor milk-feed ratios experienced for most of this year.

The costs for the main feed inputs eased in October. According to the most recent NASS Agricultural Prices report, in October the average farm price for corn was \$4.93 per bushel, \$1.56 down from October 2022, and the alfalfa hay price was \$217.0 per short ton, \$64.0 dollars lower than last October. During the same period, the soybean meal price (reported by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service) averaged \$416.6 per short ton, down \$52.5 from October 2022. The all-milk price in October averaged \$21.60 per hundredweight (cwt), down \$4.00 from October 2022 and \$0.60 higher than the price reported for September 2023. The milk-feed ratio reported by NASS was estimated at 2.03 in October, up from both last year and September.

The farm milk margin above feed costs reported by the Dairy Margin Coverage program was \$9.44 per cwt, \$1.27 lower than last year and 6 cents below the \$9.50 threshold that triggers payments for dairy producers who choose the highest levels of coverage.

Notice in the chart below that in the past the U.S. milk cow herd usually responded to changes in prices and feed costs with a lag of several months, with the length of the lag affected by factors other than feed costs, such as the administrative and operational costs incurred at the farm level. For example, the index of prices paid by farmers for commodity and services, interest taxes, and wage rates for October was estimated at 138.8, up 0.2 points from last October (USDA, NASS, *Agricultural Prices* report).

Milk cows and milk-feed ratio



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service with data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

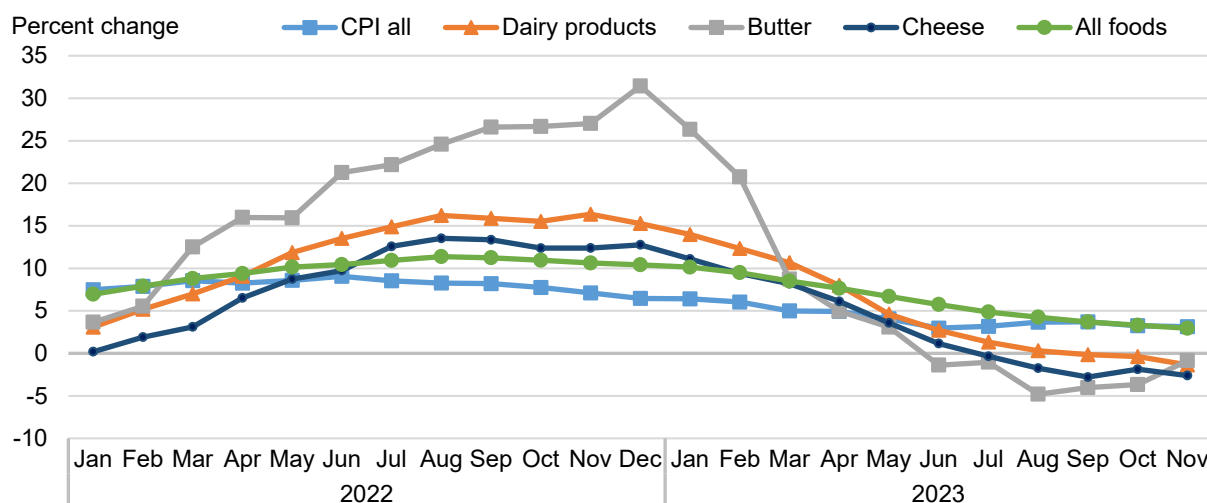
October dairy exports declined significantly from last year's volumes. Dairy exports on a milk-fat milk-equivalent basis totaled 801 million pounds in October, 49 million lower than September and 326 million lower than October 2022. On a skim-solids milk-equivalent basis, October exports totaled 4.213 billion pounds, 256 million higher than September but 159 million lower than October 2023. Despite the overall year-over-year export decline, the shipments of lactose and whey protein concentrate (WPC) increased year over year, supported by stronger demand from China (lactose, WPC), Mexico (lactose, WPC), and Japan (WPC). The exports of American cheese declined as the year-over-year higher shipments to Mexico and China were not enough to offset decreases to other Asian markets (Japan, South Korea). Exports for butterfat products, whey products, and dry skim milk products (nonfat dry milk, skim milk powder, and dry skim milk for animal use) were also significantly lower than year-ago levels, hindered in some cases by high domestic prices (butter, for example) or overall weak international demand for these products.

U.S. dairy imports in October were higher than September but lower than October 2022. On a milk-fat basis, they totaled 661 million pounds, 59.5 million higher than September but 40 million

pounds lower than October 2022. On a skim-solids basis, October imports totaled 490 million pounds, 27 million higher than September but 121 million lower than October 2022. October imports for most dairy products were year-over-year lower.

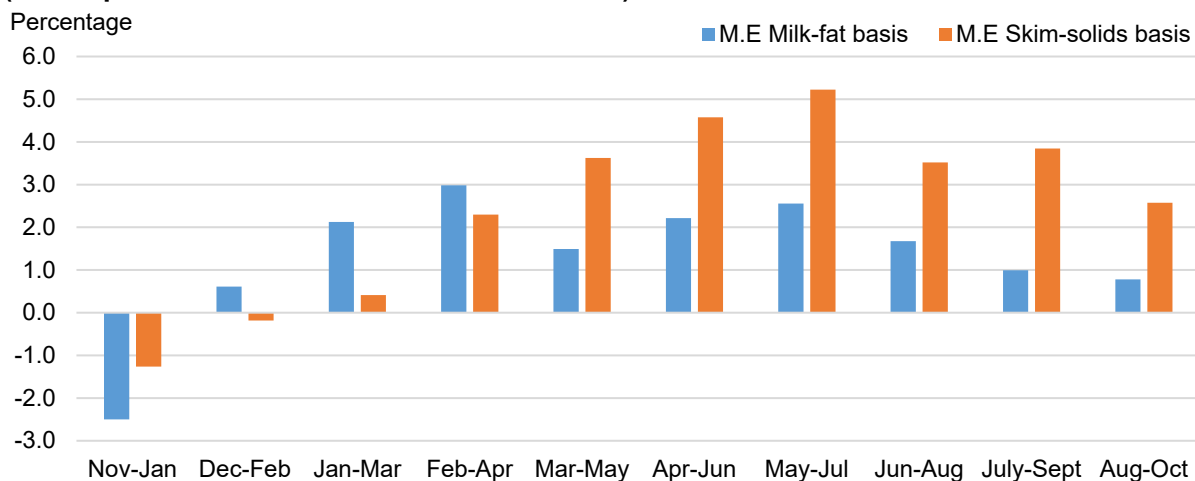
The Consumer Price Indexes for the selected dairy products were year-over-year lower in November, while the indexes for overall prices and food prices show that the inflationary pressures—albeit subdued—still exist. Domestic use for dairy products has been strong for most of 2023. For the 3 months from August through October, domestic use on a milk-fat basis was about 0.8 percent above the same 3 months of 2022. On a skim-solids basis, for the same period, domestic use was about 2.6 percent year-over-year higher. Over these 3 months, domestic use of butter, American Cheese, dry whey, whey protein concentrate, and lactose was year-over-year higher, while the domestic use for Other-than-American cheese and dry skim milk was year-over-year lower.

Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) general, all foods, all dairy products, butter, and cheese



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Year-over-year percent change in the 3-month rolling average for domestic use, (milk-equivalent milk-fat and skim-solids basis)



M.E. milk-equivalent.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Dairy Forecasts for the Remainder of 2023

Based on recent milk production information, the forecast for the average number of milk cows in 2023 is adjusted up by 5,000 head over last month's forecast, bringing the expected average number of milk cows to 9.400 million head. However, the yield per cow is revised downward by 15 pounds to 24,150 pounds of milk per head. Consequently, the milk production forecast for 2023 has been lowered by 0.2 billion pounds to 226.9 billion pounds.

The 2023 forecast for dairy exports has undergone adjustments from the prior month's forecasts. On a milk-fat basis, dairy exports are projected at 10.8 billion pounds, 0.1 billion pounds lower than the previous month's projection due to fewer expected exports of butter for the rest of the year. Conversely, the skim-solids basis forecast is revised upward by 0.1 billion pounds to 49.9 billion pounds as higher exports of dry whey products are expected for the rest of 2023.

On a milk-fat basis, the 2023 dairy import forecast is adjusted higher by 0.1 billion pounds to 7.5 billion pounds, driven by higher expected imports of cheese and butter. On a skim-solids basis, the 2023 dairy import forecast is adjusted lower by 0.2 billion to 6.3 billion pounds, due to lower expected imports of casein and milk protein concentrate for the rest of the year.

Domestic dairy product use in 2023 is projected 0.2 billion pounds higher than the previous forecast, reaching 222.9 billion pounds on a milk-fat basis. However, the skim-solids basis forecast has been reduced by 0.3 billion pounds to 182.5 billion pounds.

Due to recent downward trends of cheese and butter wholesale prices, the 2023 price forecast for cheese is lowered to \$1.765 (-0.5 cent) per pound, while the wholesale price for butter is adjusted to \$2.620 (-2.5 cents) per pound. The price forecast for NDM is adjusted higher to \$1.185 per pound (+0.5 cent), while the price of dry whey is unchanged at \$0.360 per pound.

Due to lower cheese prices, the Class III milk price forecast for 2023 is \$17.05 per hundredweight (cwt), down \$0.05 from the previous month's forecast. The Class IV projection is also lowered, by 10 cents to \$19.10 per cwt, as lower butter prices outweighed higher NDM prices. Consequently, the all-milk price forecast for 2023 declined 10 cents from the previous month's forecasts to \$20.60 per cwt.

Dairy Forecasts for 2024

The 2024 milk cow inventory projection is decreased by 15,000 head to 9.360 million head, while the forecast for milk per cow is adjusted down by 80 pounds to 24,465 pounds. Therefore, the projection for 2024 milk production has been lowered to 229.0 billion pounds, 1.0 billion lower than last month's forecast.

The export forecast for 2024 on a milk-fat basis is 11.4 billion pounds, 0.2 billion lower than the previous month's forecast, driven by lower expected shipments of butter due to relative higher prices. On a skim-solids basis, dairy exports for 2024 are projected to total 53.2 billion pounds, 0.1 billion higher. Expectation of NDM and dry whey exports are higher for 2024 as prices are expected to remain competitive in the international market.

On a milk-fat basis, dairy import forecasts for 2024 are raised by 0.1 billion pounds to 7.7 billion pounds, driven by expected stronger imports of butter. On a skim-solids basis, dairy imports are lowered by 0.2 billion pounds from last month's forecast to 6.5 billion pounds, mainly due to lower expected imports of milk protein concentrate and casein.

Domestic use is adjusted down from last month's projection. On a milk-fat basis, the domestic use forecast for 2024 is decreased by 0.5 billion to 224.6 billion pounds. On a skim-solids basis, the forecast for domestic use is lowered by 0.6 billion to 182.0 billion pounds.

Lower cheese prices are expected to persist into 2024, leading to a downward adjustment in the annual price forecast to \$1.725 per pound (-10.0 cents). Meanwhile, the 2024 price for butter is adjusted higher to \$2.595 per pound (+0.5 cent). The dry whey price forecast is revised upward to \$0.400 per pound (+2.5 cents), while the NDM price is increased to \$1.175 per pound (+0.5 cent)

Compared to the previous month's projection, the Class III milk price forecast for 2024 is adjusted down 85 cents to \$16.85 per cwt. The Class IV milk price projection for 2024 is \$18.90 per cwt, 5 cents higher. The all-milk price forecast for 2024 is \$20.25 per cwt, a decrease of 55 cents from last month's forecast.

Pork/Hogs

Mildred Haley

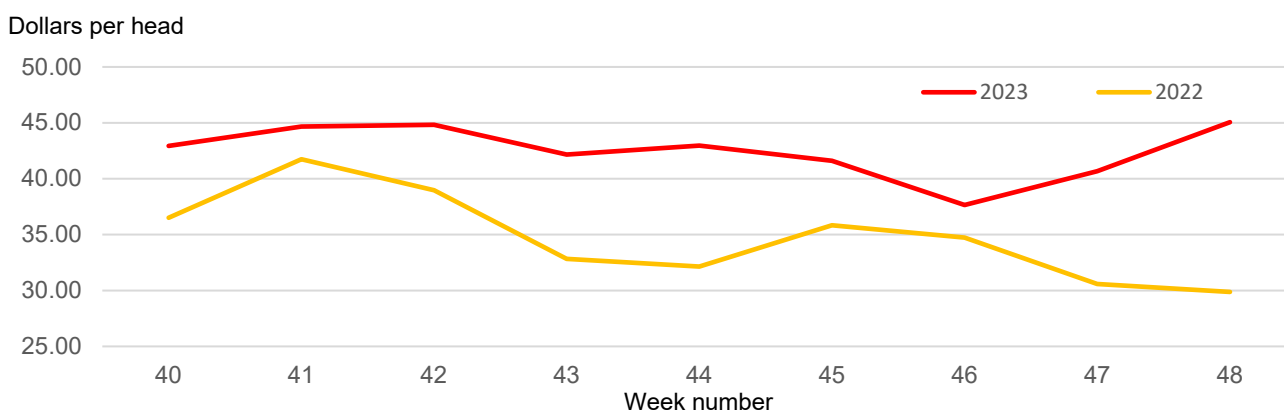
Fourth-Quarter Pork Production Forecast Increased on Faster Hog Slaughter Pace

The December forecast for fourth-quarter 2023 commercial pork production is raised 25 million pounds to 7.09 billion pounds, more than 2 percent above the same period a year ago on expected stronger slaughter numbers in December. The figure below shows that from weeks 40 to 48 (weeks ending October 7–December 2) processors' gross spreads were wider than a year earlier—\$42.50 per hog on average, compared with \$34.80 per hog last year—due more to lower hog prices this year than to prices of the pork cuts that they sell.

Two factors have driven fourth-quarter hog prices lower on the supply side: First, there are simply more hogs available. Larger numbers of fourth-quarter slaughter-ready hogs derive from a 1-percent year-over-year larger March–May pig crop, and also from larger U.S. imports of Canadian slaughter hogs. This year during weeks 40–48 National Lean Base hog prices have averaged \$55.82 per cwt, almost 15 percent lower than prices over the same period last year.

On the demand side, fourth-quarter wholesale pork cutout prices during weeks 40–48 averaged \$88.41 per cwt, compared with \$96.70 over the same period last year. Soft demand for pork cuts—the second factor—has been a drag on hog prices throughout 2023. However, the drop in the cutout has not been as sharp as the fall-off in hog prices. This is evidenced by a processor margin wider than a year ago, an effective sign for processors to put “pedal to the metal,” that is, to maximize animal processing activity on operating days knowing that the days leading up to Christmas and New Years holidays inevitably mean production slowdowns as labor and facilities take a break.

October and November 2022 and 2023 gross pork processors' spread, drop credit included



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations with USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service data.

Prices for live equivalent 51-52 percent lean hogs in the fourth quarter are expected to average \$54 per cwt, implying an average price for 2023 of almost \$59 per cwt if that fourth-quarter price expectation is realized. Next year, the first-quarter hog price is expected to average \$56 per cwt as soft pork demand and ample hog supplies are expected to persist into the beginning of the new year. For 2024, prices should average \$60 per cwt, 2.2 percent above the 2023 average.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will issue the *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* report on December 22, 2023. The report will publish hog inventory data, including a breakdown of the market hog inventory into weight classes. The report will provide valuable information on breeding herd numbers as well as producer farrowing intentions, which include second intentions for the December–February quarter and first intentions for the March–May quarter. The report should also give insight into how producers’ market perceptions have changed since their intentions were published in the September report.

October Exports Higher Than a Year Ago

U.S. pork exports were about 572 million pounds in October, almost 6 percent higher than in October 2022. The table below shows that the increase in October was due to strong shipments to Western Hemisphere nations, spearheaded by Mexico. Exports to Mexico were 16.1 percent ahead of those a year ago and accounted for 41 percent of U.S. pork exports in October. Shipments to other important nations among the hemisphere nations included year-over-year increases to Canada (+0.6 percent), Colombia (+40.3 percent), the Dominican Republic (+13.2 percent), Honduras (+51.2 percent) and Guatemala (+33.1 percent). In total, Western Hemisphere nations accounted for 64 percent of U.S. exports in October.

U.S. pork exports: Volumes and export shares of the 10 largest foreign destinations in October 2022 and 2023					
Country	Exports	Exports	Percent change (2023/2022)	Export share	Export share
	Oct. 2022 (Million pounds)	Oct. 2023 (Million pounds)		Oct. 2022 Percent	Oct. 2023 Percent
World	542	572	5.7		
Mexico	203	235	16.1	37	41
Japan	86	76	-10.8	16	13
Canada	46	46	0.6	8	8
South Korea	39	42	7.6	7	7
China\Hong Kong	63	36	-43.0	12	6
Colombia	23	32	40.3	4	6
Dominican Republic	21	24	13.2	4	4
Australia	8	15	91.0	1	3
Honduras	10	15	51.2	2	3
Guatemala	7	9	33.1	1	2

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations of Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau data.

U.S exports to Japan in October were almost 11 percent lower than a year ago. Japanese Government statistics indicate that Japan's 2023 pork imports have declined about 5.7 percent through October and that imports from the EU account for most of the decline. Pork imported from the United States has lost a bit of market share in 2023 (from 29.9 percent of the Japanese pork import market last year in January–October 2022, to 29.7 percent in January–October 2023), while Canada and Brazil have gained market share. Canada accounted for a 20.7-percent share of Japan's imports in January–October 2023 compared with 18.8 percent in January–October 2022. Brazil has shipped 3.1 percent of Japan's pork imports this year through October compared to 1.8 percent of imports last year.

The European Union (EU) appears to bear the heaviest incidence of Japan's import decline: last year from January through October, the EU accounted for 17 percent of Japanese imports. Over the same period in 2023, about 15 percent of Japan's imports were of European origin. Lower European production and higher EU pork prices are the most likely factors inducing Japanese buyers to shop for pork elsewhere this year.

On the assumption that import demand for U.S. pork will remain robust for the remainder of the fourth quarter, the forecast for the quarter is raised from 1.74 billion pounds to 1.76 billion pounds. Total exports for 2023 should total 6.75 billion pounds, an increase of 6.4 percent over total shipments in 2022.

Total exports for 2024 are lowered by 100 million pounds on the assumption of slowing demand growth for U.S. pork from major importing Asian countries. Expectations for quarterly shipments next year break out as follows: first quarter 2024, 1.73 billion pounds; second quarter, 1.75 billion pounds; third quarter, 1.60 billion pounds; fourth quarter, 1.78 billion pounds. Total 2024 pork exports are forecast at 6.85 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from 2023 forecast exports.

Poultry

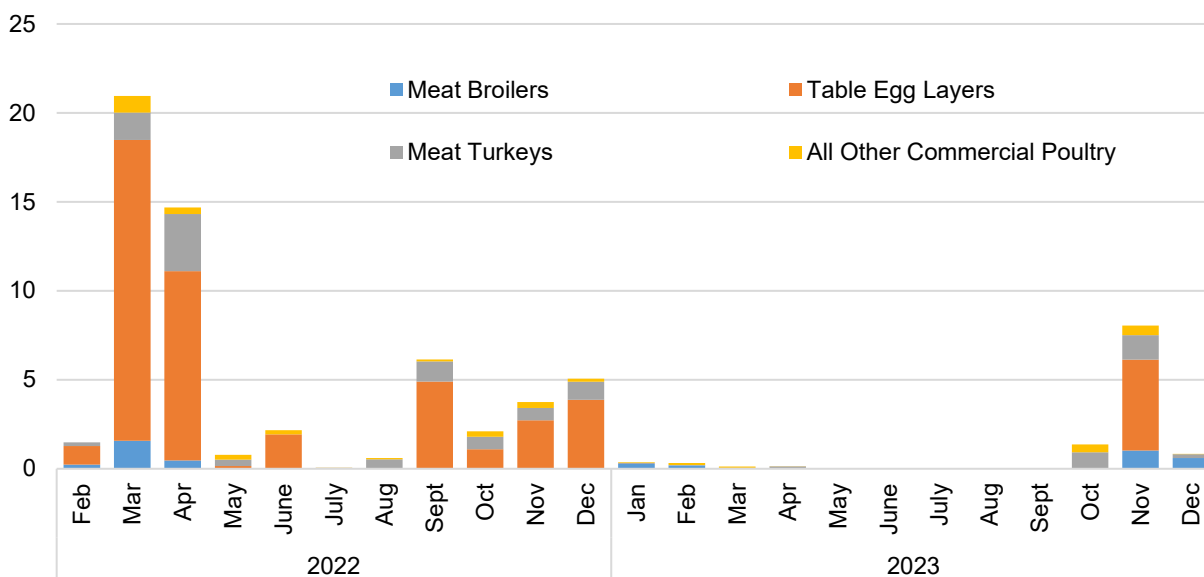
Grace Grossen

Fall Resurgence of Avian Flu

After a 5-month period without infections in commercial flocks, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was confirmed in egg laying flocks, turkey flocks, and broiler flocks this fall. Broilers were the least-impacted group in 2022, with 2.3 million depopulated. This is comparable to less than 2 percent of a typical week's slaughter. Between November 16th and December 6th, 7 broiler production flocks have been infected, resulting in the depopulation of 1.6 million birds. The affected flocks were in California, Arkansas, Maryland, and Oregon. Egg laying hens made up the vast majority of lost birds in 2022, with losses totaling 43.3 million hens. Between November 3rd and December 6th, an additional 5.1 million egg laying birds have been depopulated. These cases were confirmed in California, Iowa, Ohio, and Minnesota. HPAI cases also returned to flocks of meat turkeys in early October. Up to and including December 6th, 2.5 million meat turkeys had been depopulated. Between February 2022 and April 2023, 9.7 million meat turkeys were lost. The new cases in turkeys this year are spread across nine States and are particularly high in South Dakota and Minnesota.

Monthly Depopulations due to HPAI, February 2022–December 2023

Million birds



Note: Data is as of December 6th, 2023. HPAI = Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

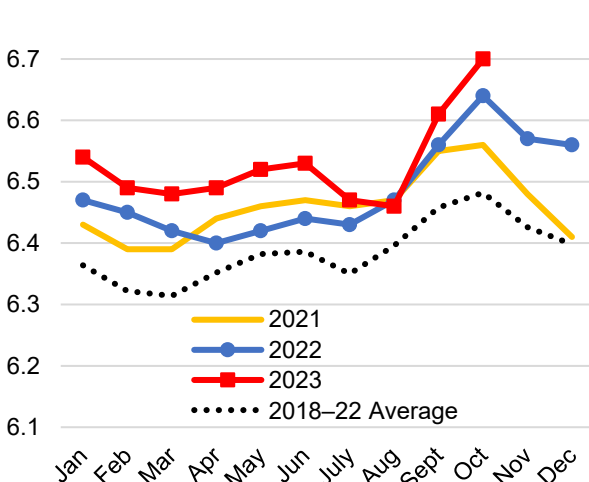
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Broiler Production Adjusted Up in 2023, Down in 2024

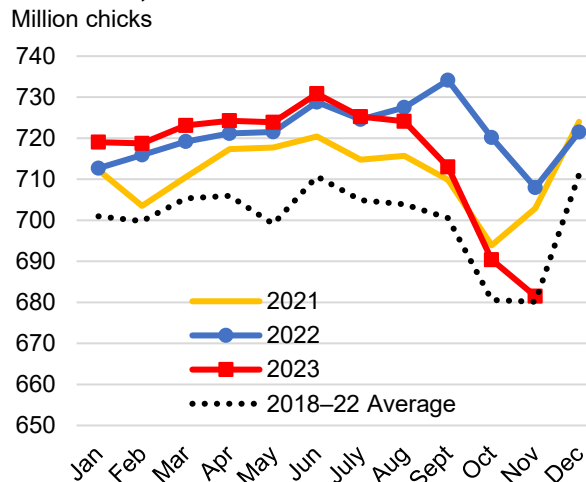
October broiler meat production totaled 4.169 billion pounds. This 2.5-percent year-over-year increase is due to an extra slaughter day and record-high average weights. Slaughter was down 2.9 percent from last October on a per day basis. September data was revised up slightly, making the third-quarter total 11.679 billion pounds. This is down 1.8 percent from the third

quarter of last year. Based on October data and continued strength in weights indicated by preliminary weekly data, the fourth-quarter production projection is adjusted up by 150 million pounds to 11.600 billion pounds. This would still be 2.2 percent less than the fourth-quarter total in 2022. In total, 2023 broiler production is projected at 46.373 billion pounds, an increase of just 0.4 percent year over year.

Monthly average broiler live weights, 2018–23
Pounds



Broiler-type eggs in incubators on the first of the month, 2018–23
Million chicks



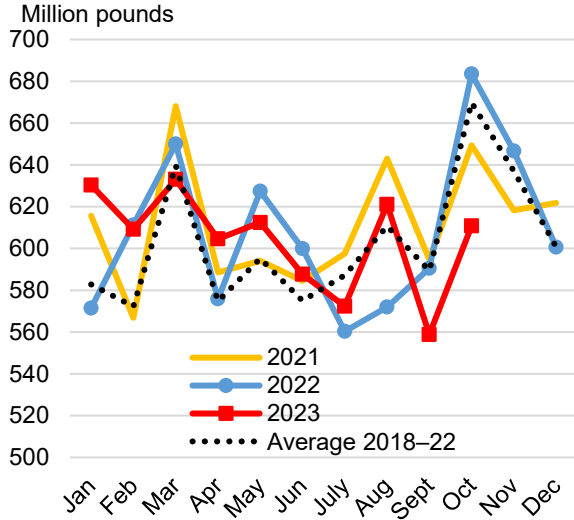
Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Production expectations for the first quarter of 2024 were lowered on hatchery indicators. The NASS *Chickens and Eggs* report indicated there were 681.5 million broiler-type eggs in incubators on the first of November. This is down 3.7 percent from the same time last year but close to the 5-year average. Projected first-quarter production was adjusted down by 25 million pounds to 11.425 billion pounds, while the outlying quarterly projections are unchanged. This makes the projected 2024 total 46.625 billion pounds, an increase of only half-a-percent from the 2023 projection.

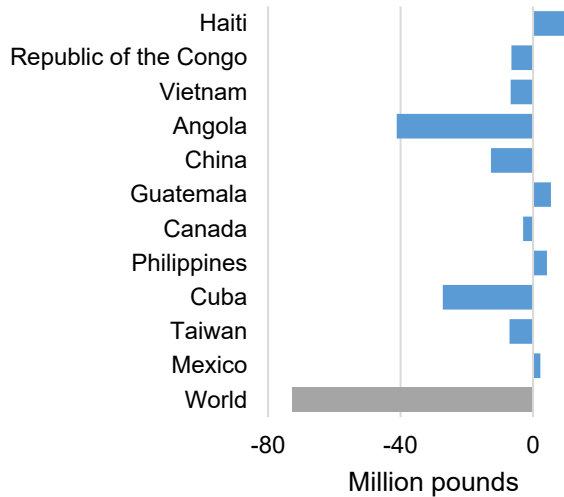
Broiler Exports and Imports Adjusted Up in 2023

Broiler exports totaled 610.8 million pounds in October. This is down 10.6 percent from last October and the smallest October total since 2016. Among the major destinations, year-over-year increases in shipments to Mexico (+2.2 million pounds), the Philippines (+4.2 million pounds), Guatemala (+5.4 million pounds) and Haiti (+11.6 million pounds) were more than offset by lower shipments to Angola (-41.2 million pounds), as well as Cuba (-27.3 million pounds), China (-12.7 million pounds), and Taiwan (-7.1 million pounds), among others. Reflecting expectations for strong shipments to small markets at the end of the year, projected broiler exports are adjusted up by 25 million pounds in the fourth quarter, making the annual projected total 7.205 billion pounds. This represents 15.5 percent of projected 2023 production. For 2024, projected exports are adjusted down 25 million pounds to 7.245 billion pounds.

Monthly total U.S. broiler exports, 2018–23



Year-over-year changes in shipments to largest export markets, October 2022–23



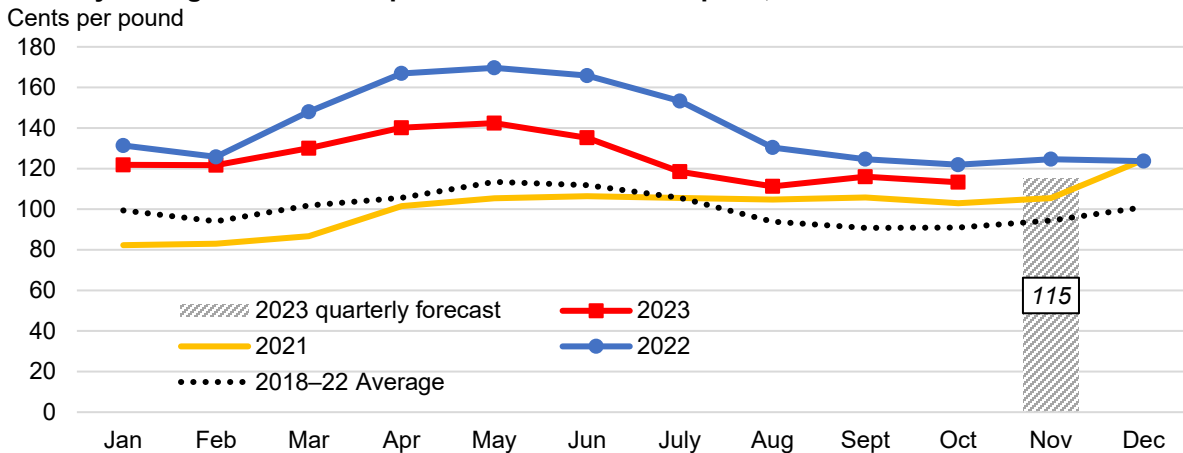
Note: Largest markets based on January–October 2023 export volumes.
 Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Broiler imports totaled 14.6 million pounds in October, with just over 11 million pounds coming from Chile. October shipments were the largest of the calendar year so far. Based on the strength of recent shipments, projected imports for 2023 were adjusted up slightly to 133 million pounds and projected imports for 2024 were adjusted up 16 million pounds to 180 million pounds.

Broiler Prices Unchanged in 2024

Weekly average national composite broiler prices wavered between 113 and 117 cents per pound through most of November but averaged 121.3 cents per pound in the week ending December 1st. Reflecting expectations of minor seasonal increases in price toward the end of the year, the fourth-quarter projected average price was adjusted down by 1 cent to 115 cents per pound. For 2024, the projected average price is unchanged at 124 cents per pound.

Monthly average national composite wholesale broiler price, 2018–23



Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service and USDA, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

Table Egg Production Adjusted Down in First-Half 2024

Table egg production totaled 685.6 million dozen in October, an increase of 3.9 percent year over year. The table egg laying flock size averaged 322.3 million hens in October, 3.5 percent larger than last October. Lay rates continued to steadily improve, averaging 82.3 eggs per hundred layers per day in October, the highest of the year so far. On the first of November, the flock size was estimated at 322.5 million birds, up slightly month over month and 3.4 percent above the same time last year. These data predate the depopulation of over 5 million egg laying hens reported by USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in November. As improving lay rates are expected to balance out the loss of hens to HPAI in the short term, fourth-quarter projected table egg production is unchanged at 2,035 million dozen. For the first half of 2024, reflecting the longer term production impacts of the birds lost so far, projected table egg production is adjusted down 25 million dozen in the first quarter to 1,985 million dozen and down 35 million dozen in the second quarter to 2,000 million dozen. Leaving the second-half projection unchanged, the total table egg production projection for 2024 is 8,080 million dozen, still an increase of 2.5 percent from the 2023 projection.

Table egg layer inventory on the first of the month, 2017–23

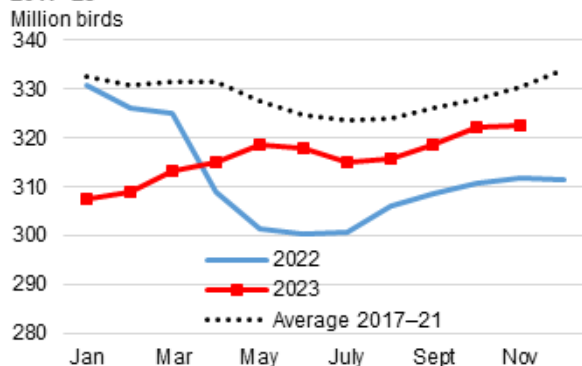
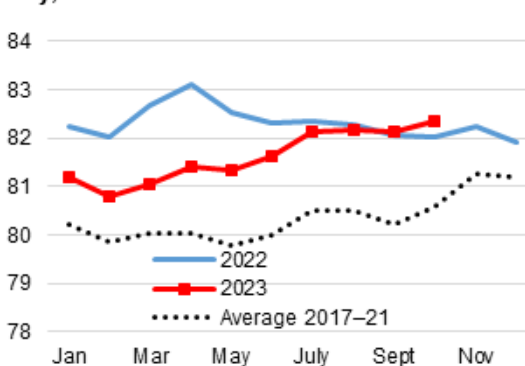


Table egg lay rate, eggs per 100 layers per day, 2017–23



Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

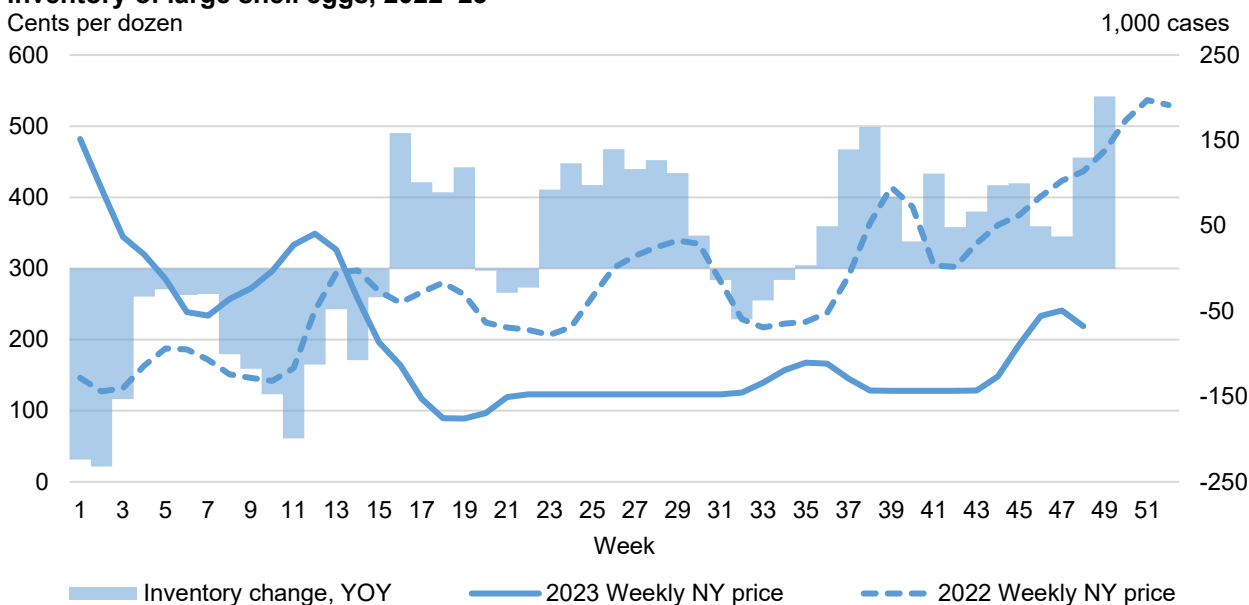
Egg Prices Adjusted Down in Fourth Quarter, Up in First Half of 2024

Daily New York wholesale egg prices climbed steadily in the first half of November 2023. On November 3rd, HPAI was found in egg laying flocks for the first time in 2023, and price increases reflected some concern for the flock's fragile recovery from last year's losses. However, despite continued confirmations (totaling over 5 million lost birds as of December 6th), prices leveled off at 241 cents per dozen during the week of Thanksgiving and then began to fall as sharply as they had risen in the first half of the month. November's average price was 213.2 cents per dozen. Daily midpoint wholesale New York large egg prices fell to 173 cents per dozen on December 7. While seasonal demand for holiday baking often pushes wholesale egg prices higher at this time of year, weekly shell egg inventories have maintained levels higher than a year ago since late August. Reflecting the recent price data and relatively large shell egg inventories, the fourth-quarter price projection is adjusted down to 170 cents per dozen. This

would be a decrease of about \$2.42 from the fourth-quarter average last year and would result in an annual average price of 189.4 cents per dozen.

For 2024, projected average egg prices are adjusted up in the first half. This reflects lowered table egg production expectations in the same period. The first-quarter average price is projected at 176 cents per dozen and the second-quarter average at 140 cents per dozen. Third- and fourth-quarter projections are unchanged, resulting in an annual average projection of 150 cents per dozen.

Weekly average New York wholesale price for large eggs and year-over-year change in weekly inventory of large shell eggs, 2022–23



Note: YOY = Year-over-year. Cases contain 30 dozen eggs.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Egg Import and Export Expectations Increased in Fourth Quarter

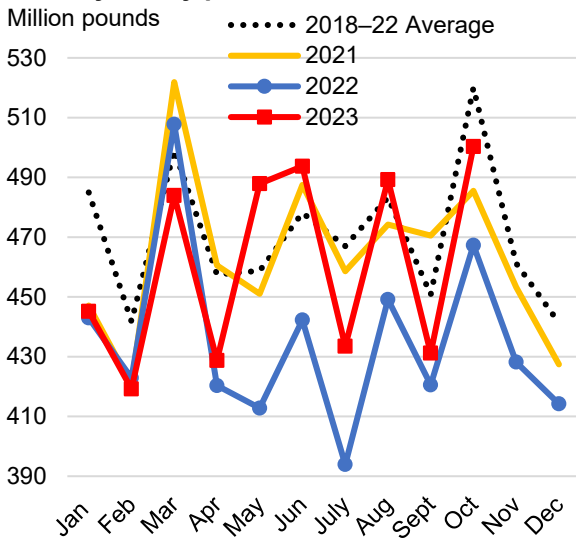
October egg exports totaled 22.2 million shell-egg-equivalent dozen. This is up 4.6 million dozen from last year, including increases in both shell egg exports (+3.6 million dozen) and egg product exports (+1.0 million dozen). The top two destinations for egg and egg product exports in October, accounting for 54 percent of all exports, were Canada (6.3 million dozen) and Mexico (5.7 million dozen). The October year-over-year increase was partially accounted for by a shipment of egg products to Australia (2.0 million shell-egg-equivalent dozen). Projected total exports for 2023 are adjusted up by 3 million dozen to 245 million dozen, an increase of 8 percent from 2022. The total export forecast for 2024 is unchanged at 238 million dozen.

Egg and egg product imports totaled 2.7 million dozen in October, up by about 1 million dozen from last October. Egg products made up the majority of imports, including egg product shipments from Lithuania totaling 1.1 million shell-egg equivalent dozen. Based on recent data, the 2023 projection is adjusted up slightly to 29.5 million dozen. For 2024, projected imports are unchanged at 30 million dozen.

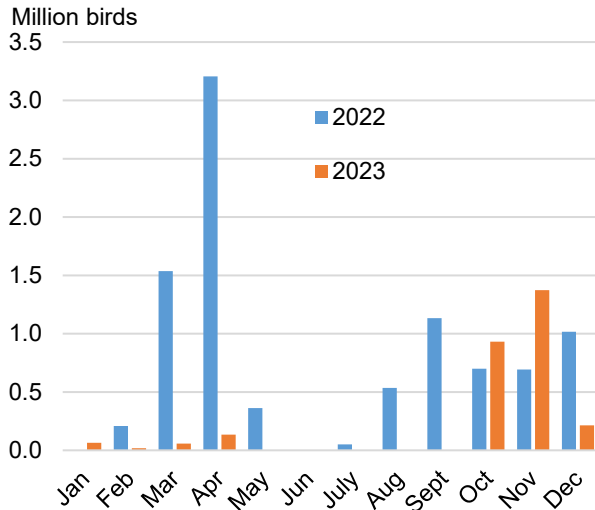
Turkey Production Projection Adjusted Down in 2023 and 2024

Turkey production in October totaled 500.3 million pounds. This is up 7.1 percent from last October, but on a per slaughter-day basis the increase is only 2.3 percent. Compared to the 2018–22 average, October production is down 3.8 percent. Based on APHIS depopulation data, from the start of October through December 6th, this fall’s resurgence of HPAI has resulted in the loss of more than 2.5 million turkeys intended for meat. Reflecting these losses, preliminary slaughter data for November, and lower placement data in September, projected production in the fourth quarter is adjusted down by 40 million pounds to 1.350 billion pounds. This would be an increase of 3 percent over last year but still 16 million pounds under the fourth quarter of 2021. Accounting for this and a revision to September data, the 2023 total production projection is 5.462 billion pounds, an increase of 4.6 percent from 2022.

Monthly turkey production, 2018–23



Monthly turkey meat bird losses to HPAI in 2022 and 2023



Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

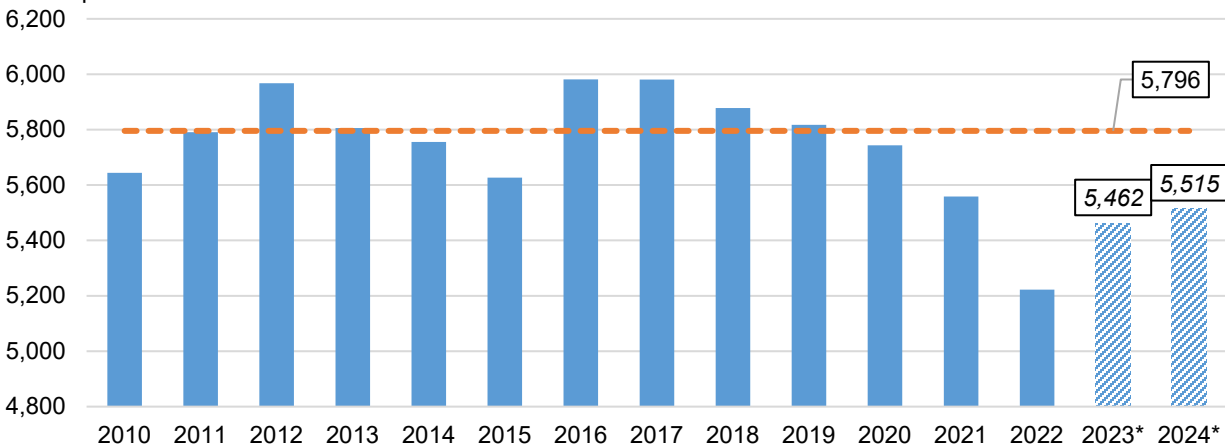
Note: Data as of December 6.

Source: USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

For early 2024, production expectations are decreased as the production impact of HPAI losses through early December are expected to be realized. The first-quarter production projection is adjusted down by 15 million pounds to 1.360 billion pounds, and the second quarter is adjusted down by 10 million pounds to 1.380 billion pounds. Turkey hatchery data also support lowered production expectations in the first half of next year, as turkey eggs in incubators on the first of November totaled 25.7 million, down 2.7 percent year over year. Reduced production expectations in the second half of 2024 reflect lower expected prices for turkey meat, squeezing margins. In total, the 2024 projection is down 85 million pounds from last month’s projection at 5.510 billion pounds. This would be an increase of about 1 percent from the 2023 projection, though still well below the average annual production in the 5 years prior to the current HPAI outbreak.

Annual total turkey production, 2010–24

Million pounds



Note: Asterisk indicates a projection.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Turkeys in cold storage at the end of October totaled 319.7 million pounds, following the typical seasonal decline. This is 12.7 percent above last year but still 11 percent below the 2018–22 average. The share of whole-hen turkeys in cold storage has also been below average at the end of each month this year. Reflecting smaller production expectations, projected ending stocks for 2023 are adjusted down to 185 million pounds, and ending stocks for 2024 are adjusted down to 195 million pounds.

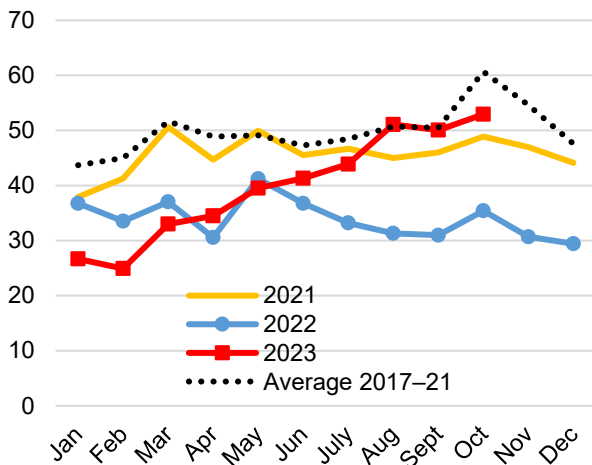
Turkey Exports Adjusted Up, Imports Adjusted Down

Monthly turkey exports continued to climb, totaling 52.9 million pounds in October. Shipments to Mexico increased by 12.6 million pounds from last October, totaling 36.5 million pounds or about 70 percent of this October’s total exports. The 2023 total export projection was increased by 20 million pounds to 150 million pounds. While HPAI outbreaks limit production as well as export opportunities, current turkey prices favor exports to price-sensitive markets. The total projection for 2023 is 495 million pounds, 9.1 percent of projected production. Reflecting the expectation that this strength in shipments continues into early next year, projected exports are also adjusted up by 5 million pounds in the first quarter of next year. With the outlying quarters of 2024 unchanged, the projected total for next year is 470 million pounds, down 25 million pounds from this year’s projection and representing 8.5 percent of projected production.

Turkey imports totaled 2.7 million pounds in October, a decrease of 9.6 million pounds from last October but 1.4 million over the 2017–21 average. In October, Canada accounted for 55 percent of shipments to the United States and Chile for 45 percent. Based on lower shipments in recent months and lower forecast prices, projected imports were adjusted down to 43 million pounds in 2023 and 64 million pounds in 2024.

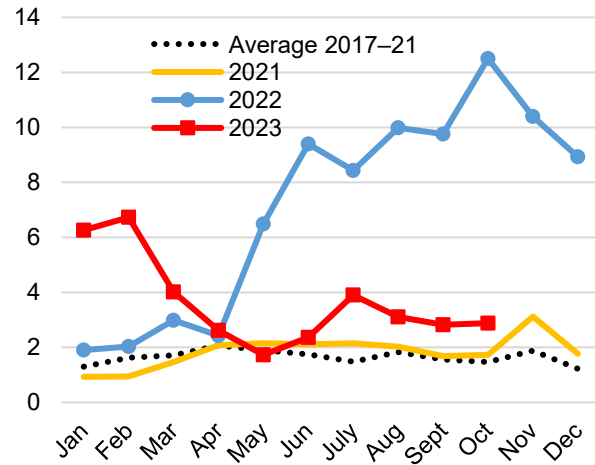
Monthly total turkey meat exports, 2017–23

Million pounds



Monthly total turkey meat imports, 2017–23

Million pounds



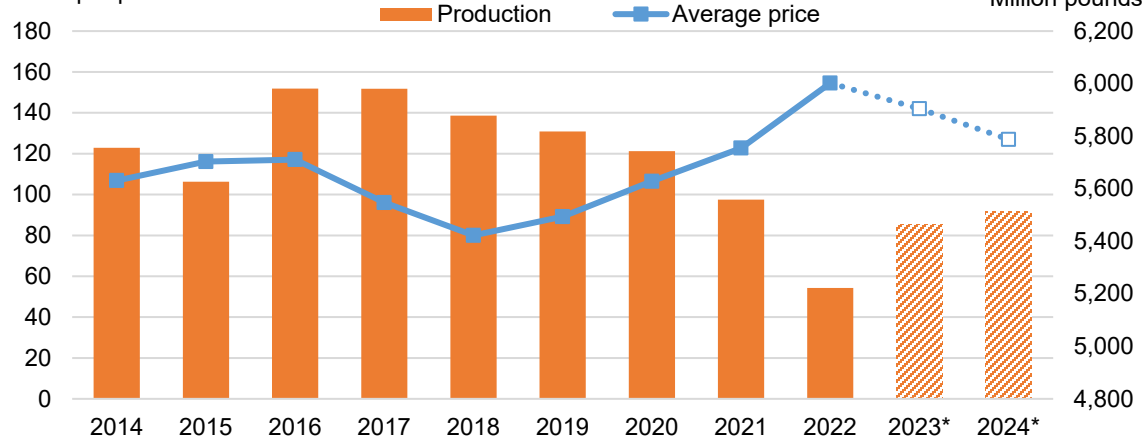
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Turkey Prices Adjusted Down in 2023 and 2024 With Weak Demand

Weekly wholesale prices for frozen whole-hen turkeys have continued to fall. In November, the lowest price was 92 cents per pound in the week ending the 24th (the week of Thanksgiving). While the lowest weekly prices coincided with weeks of very thin trading, even the highest weekly price in November (105.94 cents per pound in the week ending the 17th) was 66 cents lower than the same week a year ago. While production is not expected to return to pre-outbreak production norms, it is expected to improve in 2023 and 2024 after HPAI-stunted production in 2022, and these supplies are expected to weigh on prices. Reflecting recent price trends and expectations of continued weak demand for turkey meat domestically, projected turkey prices are adjusted down in the fourth quarter of 2023 and all four quarters of 2024. The fourth quarter is adjusted down 7 cents to 103 cents per pound, which would make the 2023 annual average 140.6 cents per pound. For 2024, projected quarterly prices are adjusted down in all quarters, with an annual average projection of 127 cents per pound.

Annual average turkey prices and total production, 2014–24

Cents per pound



Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service and USDA, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

Suggested Citation

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U.S. red meat and poultry forecasts

	2022					2023					2024			
	I	II	III	IV	Annual	I	II	III	IV	Annual	I	II	III	Annual
Production, million pounds														
Beef	7,023	7,072	7,144	7,052	28,291	6,821	6,710	6,621	6,780	26,932	6,660	6,590	6,440	25,990
Pork	6,905	6,639	6,534	6,919	26,996	7,071	6,593	6,488	7,090	27,242	7,070	6,520	6,730	27,730
Lamb and mutton	32	35	33	32	131	33	33	30	33	130	31	31	32	126
Broilers	11,170	11,279	11,896	11,861	46,206	11,549	11,545	11,679	11,600	46,373	11,425	11,650	11,850	46,625
Turkeys	1,374	1,275	1,264	1,310	5,222	1,348	1,410	1,354	1,350	5,462	1,360	1,380	1,370	5,510
Total red meat and poultry	26,651	26,455	27,035	27,034	107,469	26,976	26,453	26,334	27,006	106,768	26,700	26,329	26,580	106,599
Table eggs, million dozen	1,998	1,894	1,934	1,956	7,781	1,891	1,959	2,000	2,035	7,885	1,985	2,000	2,035	8,080
Per capita disappearance, retail pounds 1/														
Beef	15.0	14.7	14.7	14.6	59.1	14.9	14.4	14.3	14.3	57.9	14.5	14.2	13.9	56.0
Pork	13.1	12.4	12.4	13.1	51.1	13.0	11.9	12.2	13.2	50.3	12.8	11.8	12.5	50.9
Lamb and mutton	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.2
Broilers	23.8	24.2	25.7	25.1	98.9	24.8	24.7	25.3	24.8	99.5	24.3	24.9	25.4	99.5
Turkeys	3.4	3.2	3.6	4.3	14.6	3.4	3.6	3.7	4.3	15.0	3.4	3.6	3.7	15.1
Total red meat and poultry	56.1	55.4	57.3	57.9	226.8	56.8	55.3	56.1	57.4	225.6	55.7	55.2	56.2	224.5
Eggs, number	71.3	68.2	69.4	70.2	279.0	67.5	69.5	71.4	72.4	280.8	70.8	71.0	72.2	286.9
Market prices														
Steers 5-area Direct, Total all grades, dollars/cwt	139.25	141.93	143.42	152.99	144.40	160.92	179.02	184.27	178.00	175.55	175.00	177.00	178.00	178.25
Feeder steers, Medium Frame No. 1, OK City, dollars/cwt	156.04	158.35	172.31	177.06	165.94	183.48	211.49	249.45	230.00	218.61	225.00	235.00	250.00	241.75
Cows, Live equivalent, Cutter 90% lean, 500 lbs and up, National, dollars/cwt	72.65	83.41	84.01	73.69	78.44	82.91	96.62	103.73	97.00	95.07	100.00	110.00	110.00	106.25
Choice/Prime slaughter lambs, National, dollars/cwt	225.00	210.33	138.69	124.26	174.57	134.23	161.36	199.74	193.00	172.08	185.00	180.00	170.00	173.75
Barrows and gilts, National base cost, 51-52% lean, live equivalent, dollars/cwt	65.55	75.58	80.20	63.49	71.21	54.83	56.69	69.27	54.00	58.70	56.00	63.00	65.00	60.00
Broilers, Wholesale, National composite, weighted average, cents/lb	135.1	167.5	136.1	123.5	140.5	124.5	139.3	115.3	115.0	123.5	121.0	127.0	124.0	124.0
Turkeys, National 8-16 lb hens, National, cents/lb	131.4	143.9	165.4	177.5	154.5	170.8	156.2	132.5	103.0	140.6	117.0	126.0	132.0	127.0
Eggs, Grade A large, New York, volume buyers, cents/dozen	170.8	251.6	295.6	411.7	282.4	315.9	135.8	135.8	170.0	189.4	176.0	140.0	130.0	150.3
U.S. trade, million pounds, carcass-weight equivalent														
Beef and veal exports	843	944	912	846	3,544	779	805	731	715	3,030	720	740	700	2,845
Beef and veal imports	985	859	797	750	3,390	956	901	966	840	3,663	975	910	975	3,700
Lamb and mutton imports	88	88	93	89	358	79	62	70	75	286	85	75	80	325
Pork exports	1,538	1,611	1,514	1,681	6,345	1,668	1,783	1,543	1,755	6,749	1,725	1,745	1,600	6,850
Pork imports	358	369	317	300	1,344	284	271	284	330	1,169	310	290	295	1,215
Broiler exports	1,833	1,803	1,723	1,931	7,290	1,873	1,805	1,752	1,775	7,205	1,850	1,820	1,775	7,245
Turkey exports	107	109	96	96	407	85	115	145	150	495	95	110	135	470
Live swine imports (thousand head)	1,654	1,664	1,602	1,565	6,486	1,671	1,673	1,711	1,775	6,830	1,725	1,695	1,690	6,700

Note: Forecasts are in bold. cwt=hundredweight.

1/ Per capita meat and egg disappearance data are calculated using the Resident Population plus Armed Forces Overseas series from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Source: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates and Supporting Materials.

For further information, contact: Mildred Haley, Economic Research Service, USDA.

Updated 12/8/2023

Dairy forecasts

Years Quarters	2022		2023					2024			
	IV	Annual	I	II	III	IV	Annual	I	II	III	Annual
Milk cows (thousands)	9,404	9,402	9,427	9,416	9,377	9,370	9,400	9,365	9,360	9,360	9,360
Milk per cow (pounds)	5,944	24,087	6,031	6,165	5,981	5,970	24,150	6,140	6,225	6,070	24,465
Milk production (billion pounds)	55.9	226	56.9	58.1	56.1	55.9	226.9	57.5	58.3	56.8	229.0
Farm use	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.0
Milk marketings	55.6	225	56.6	57.8	55.8	55.7	225.9	57.3	58.0	56.6	228.0
Milk-fat (billion pounds milk equiv.)											
Milk marketings	55.6	225.5	56.6	57.8	55.8	55.7	225.9	57.3	58.0	56.6	228.0
Beginning stocks	16.6	14.3	14.4	16.6	18.5	16.4	14.4	14.2	16.6	18.5	14.2
Imports	1.9	7.1	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.1	7.5	1.8	1.9	1.9	7.7
Total supply	74.1	246.9	72.8	76.2	76.2	74.2	247.8	73.2	76.6	77.0	249.9
Exports	3.2	13.4	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6	10.8	2.7	3.0	2.9	11.4
Ending stocks	14.4	14.4	16.6	18.5	16.4	14.2	14.2	16.6	18.5	16.4	13.9
Domestic use	56.5	219.1	53.5	55.0	57.1	57.4	222.9	53.9	55.1	57.7	224.6
Skim solids (billion pounds milk equiv.)											
Milk marketings	55.6	225.5	56.6	57.8	55.8	55.7	225.9	57.3	58.0	56.6	228.0
Beginning stocks	11.8	11.1	11.7	12.4	12.5	11.3	11.7	11.6	12.3	12.3	11.6
Imports	2.0	6.7	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.5	6.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	6.5
Total supply	69.5	243.3	70.1	71.6	69.9	68.5	243.9	70.5	71.8	70.4	246.1
Exports	12.9	52.9	12.6	12.9	12.2	12.2	49.9	13.0	14.0	13.4	53.2
Ending stocks	11.7	11.7	12.4	12.5	11.3	11.6	11.6	12.3	12.3	11.3	11.0
Domestic use	45.0	178.7	45.0	46.3	46.5	44.7	182.5	45.2	45.5	45.7	182.0
Milk prices (dollars/hundredweight) ¹											
All milk	25.17	25.34	21.93	19.30	19.37	21.75	20.60	20.60	19.65	19.50	20.25
Class III	21.11	21.96	18.44	16.51	16.45	16.80	17.05	16.50	16.65	16.95	16.85
Class IV	23.46	24.47	19.08	18.10	18.75	20.55	19.10	18.90	18.60	18.85	18.90
Product prices (dollars/pound) ²											
Cheddar cheese	2.1004	2.1122	1.8797	1.7033	1.7528	1.715	1.765	1.690	1.710	1.730	1.725
Dry whey	0.4723	0.6057	0.4186	0.3810	0.2745	0.370	0.360	0.390	0.390	0.400	0.400
Butter	2.9743	2.8665	2.4338	2.4337	2.6342	2.980	2.620	2.580	2.530	2.580	2.595
Nonfat dry milk	1.5141	1.6851	1.2717	1.1577	1.1350	1.175	1.185	1.180	1.170	1.170	1.175

Totals may not add due to rounding.

¹ Simple averages of monthly prices. May not match reported annual averages.

² Simple averages of monthly prices calculated by the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, for use in class price formulas.

Product prices are based on weekly USDA *National Dairy Products Sales Report*.

Sources: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service; USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service; USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service; and USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board.

Published by USDA, Economic Research Service, in *Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook*.

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